



9455 Koger Boulevard Suite 219  
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(813) 577-5151/Tampa 224-938  
FAX 570-5118 SunCom 586-3217

**An Alliance of Agencies,  
Organizations and  
Interest Groups for the  
Management of Tampa Bay**

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
Florida Senate  
Florida House of Representatives  
Tampa Bay National Estuary Program  
Florida Department  
of Environmental Protection  
Florida Marine Research Institute  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Florida Game and  
Fresh Water Fish Commission  
Southwest Florida  
Water Management District  
Florida Sea Grant  
Cargill Fertilizer, Inc.  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
MacDill Air Force Base  
Tampa Port Authority  
Manatee Port Authority  
St. Petersburg Port Authority  
Hillsborough County  
Manatee County  
Pasco County  
Pinellas County  
City of Clearwater  
City of Oldsmar  
City of St. Petersburg  
City of Safety Harbor  
City of Tampa  
Environmental Protection Commission  
of Hillsborough County  
Florida Power Corporation  
Tampa Electric Company  
Florida Conservation Association  
Organized Fishermen of Florida  
National Audubon Society  
Hillsborough Environmental Coalition  
University of South Florida  
Hillsborough Community College  
Recreational Interests  
Dames & Moore, Inc.  
Greiner, Inc.  
Tampa BayWatch  
Coastal Environmental, Inc.  
Tampa Bay Pilots

February 23, 1998

John R. Hall, Acting Chief  
Planning Division  
Attention: Environmental Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Chief Hall:

Re: Study of the Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigation Channel

The Executive Steering Committee of the Agency on Bay Management, at its February 12th meeting, voted unanimously to forward the following comments, concerns and questions regarding the above-referenced study.

As presented to the Agency on Bay Management's Natural Resources/ Environmental Impact Review Committee, the study will evaluate various alternatives to providing sufficient turning basin and dockage to accommodate Panamax-sized vessels at the Cargill Fertilizer, Inc. facility and determine the federal interest in the project. This single-user site is located inside the mouth of the Alafia River in northeastern Tampa Bay.

The existing facility includes a 32'-deep, 150'-wide, 3.6-mile long channel from the main Tampa Bay shipping channel to the 700' x 1,200' turning basin. The stated need is for a 1,200' x 1,200' turning basin, a 250'-wide channel and 43' depths to permit Cargill to use Panamax ships, now considered standard for the industry and more economically-competitive. The two alternatives presented to the committee were:

1. Expansion of the existing turning basin. This would entail deepening by 11' and widening by 500' and generation of about 1,000,000 cubic yards of dredged material. The amount of alteration needed to existing facilities was not provided.
2. Dredging/construction of a new turning basin outside and north of the mouth of the Alafia River. This new basin would be more than 25 acres in size and 43' deep, in an area now about 3' deep. Some 4,000,000 cubic yards of dredged material would require disposal. New dockage and transloading facilities would be needed, but the size and location was not provided.

At the Committee meeting many concerns were raised relating to the identification of environmental impacts associated with each alternative. These concerns should be addressed as part of the Corps' study.

A. Regarding expansion of the existing turning basin ("1" above):

1. What habitat would be impacted by basin expansion and channel deepening? How would mitigation be accomplished?
2. How much more maintenance (amount of material and frequency) would be needed than the current project?
3. Would the configuration of the expanded turning basin and increased depth of the channel affect erosion rates of the Bird Islands, the river banks, or other areas?
4. What products will be handled at the expanded facility?

B. Concerning the proposed new turning basin ("2" above):

1. How would the dredged material (an estimated 4 million cubic yards) be disposed - a new island in Tampa Bay, upland, or in open-waters of the Gulf? What would be the primary and secondary impacts of disposal site creation and use?
2. Would the turning basin and increased channel depth affect erosion rates of the Bird Islands, the eastern shoreline of Tampa Bay in the project's vicinity, and elsewhere?
3. Would the basin affect the stability/vulnerability of the nearby gypsum disposal site? Would additional hardening of the shoreline be necessary?
4. Would the basin have an adverse affect on seagrass beds in the vicinity, due to sloughing of the basin sides and the creation of a large sump in the open bay?
5. How many acres of seagrass and other shallow water estuarine habitat would be removed for this alternative, including for necessary docking and transloading equipment?
6. How would mitigation for all primary and secondary impacts be accomplished?
7. How much maintenance (amount of material and frequency) would be needed? Where would this material be disposed?
8. What products would be handled through the new facilities?
9. What would be the fate of the existing basin and channel into the Alafia River?

C. General questions:

1. Would the federal government assume any portion of the responsibility for construction and maintenance of the modified Alafia River Navigation Channel, including a turning basin, for a single user?
2. What beneficial uses are available for the large quantity of material that would be generated by either alternative?

Of considerable concern within Tampa Bay is the potential for a finding of federal interest in a single-user project such as this. A positive finding would set a serious precedent within the estuary, where industrialization has been planned, developed and supported by federal involvement in two areas. Significant expansion of federal involvement into an area with many high quality environmental values. Without substantial, over-riding public interest, such a project is contrary to regional, state and federal policies.

The Agency on Bay Management offers its assistance in the evaluation of the two alternatives for improved vessel access to the Cargill Fertilizer facility. Any questions or request for background information which the Agency might have on the Alafia River or Tampa Bay should be directed to Ms. Suzanne Cooper, 9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (813) 577-5151, Ext. 240. Please ensure that a copy of the study, including responses to the comments and questions in this letter is provided to the Agency on Bay Management, care of Ms. Cooper.

Thank you for addressing these comments and questions within the study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara B. Romano".

Barbara B. Romano  
Chair

cc: Mr. Gray Gordon  
Mr. Tim Murphy  
Mr. George Henderson



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Barbara Romano

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Commissioner  
Chris Hart

**Executive Director**  
Julia E. Greene

February 13, 1998

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Planning Division/Environmental Branch  
P. O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW, IC&R #049-98, Tampa  
Harbor/Alafia River Navigational Channel Study, Hillsborough  
County

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The above-referenced item will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council's Clearinghouse Review Committee on February 23, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council conference room. Should you or your representative wish to attend, please feel free to do so.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (813) 577-5151, ext. 257, regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Meyer", is written over a large, stylized, circular flourish or scribble.

John M. Meyer, Principal Planner  
Intergovernmental Coordination & Review

JMM/bj

Enclosure

Michael M. English  
*Chairman*

February 12, 1998

Jan T. Smith  
*Vice-Chairman*

Mary C. Alvarez  
*Member-at-Large*

Edward D. Dees  
Ronald A. Govin

J. E. (Dooley) Houghtaling  
W. C. Meriwether  
Demetria L. Merritt  
Laura Swain  
Warren J. Weathers

Robert B. Hunter, AICP  
*Executive Director*

John R. Hall  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Planning Division  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigational Channel

Dear Mr. Hall:

I received your letter dated January 29, 1998. Your mailing list names Stu Marvin as your contact with our organization. This individual no longer works for the Hillsborough Planning Commission. Please update your mailing list to reference myself as the contact.

From the information at hand, it seems that the determination as to whether the improvements of the channel and turning basin are necessary for the safety and efficiency of the channel has yet to be made. The Planning Commission has previously supported dredging for the maintenance of existing channels. However, new dredging projects should firstly demonstrate a substantial need for the project and secondly demonstrate project benefits and appropriate measures to minimize and mitigate potential environmental costs.

Dredging activities detailed in your letter have the potential to cause detrimental effects on seagrasses, areas with the potential for seagrass recovery and other benthic communities; cause or accelerate shoreline erosion; degrade littoral zone environments; and impact avian and manatee habitats.

Information demonstrating the need and benefits of this project and their relation to the potential environmental costs is of great importance to its consideration. However, the Planning Commission has not yet received such information.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project, we look forward to continued involvement as additional information becomes available.

601 E. Kennedy, 18th Floor  
P.O. Box 1110  
Tampa, Florida 33601-1110  
813/272-5940  
FAX 813/272-6258  
FAX 813/272-6255  
Internet E-Mail:  
planning@cftnet.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn C. College". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shawn" and last name "College" clearly distinguishable.

Shawn C. College, AICP  
Senior Planner

CC: Al Eisenmenger, Executive Planner



STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

*"Helping Floridians create safe, vibrant, sustainable communities"*

**LAWTON CHILES**  
Governor

**JAMES F. MURLEY**  
Secretary

April 3, 1998

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Gathering of  
Information about Issues, Concerns, Resources and  
Opportunities Associated with the Ongoing Study of the  
Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigation Channel -  
Hillsborough County, Florida  
SAI: FL9802020037C

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has been advised that our reviewing agencies require additional time to complete the review of the above-referenced project. Per our April 3, 1998, conservation with your office, an additional extension is agreed upon for completion of the state's consistency review in accordance with 15 CFR 930.41(b). We will make every effort to conclude the review and forward the consistency determination to you on or before April 15, 1998.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Cantral".

Ralph Cantral, Executive Director  
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

**2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100**

Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781

Internet address: <http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/dca.html>

**FLORIDA KEYS**  
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office  
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212  
Marathon, Florida 33050-2227

**GREEN SWAMP**  
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office  
155 East Summerlin  
Bartow, Florida 33830-4641

**SOUTH FLORIDA RECOVERY OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 4022  
8600 N.W. 36th Street  
Miami, Florida 33159-4022



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February 23, 1998

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Planning Division/Environmental Branch  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

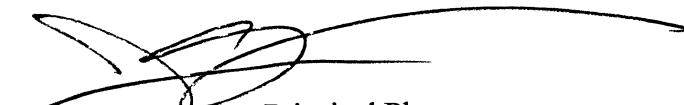
Subject: Recommended for APPROVAL, IC&R #049-98, Tampa Harbor/Alafia River Navigational Channel Study, Hillsborough County

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The enclosed agenda item regarding the above-referenced matter was considered and staff comments approved by the Clearinghouse Review Committee of the Tampa Bay Regional Council at its February 23, 1998 meeting.

Please feel free to contact me if further information regarding this item is desired.

Sincerely,

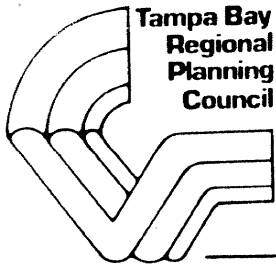


John M. Meyer, Principal Planner  
Intergovernmental Coordination & Review

JMM/bj

Enclosure





# Clearinghouse Review

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TAMPA HARBOR - ALAFIA RIVER NAVIGATION CHANNEL, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY,  
IC&R #049-98.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking information about issues, concerns, resources, and opportunities associated with the study of this project. The study is to determine the federal interest in deepening and widening the navigational channel, which is located in central Hillsborough County at the mouth of the Alafia River. The study entails determining if the existing channel is adequately sized to safely accommodate the types of vessels projected to use it. Additionally, the study will examine the viability of the existing turning basin, if it could be expanded, or if an additional turning basin is warranted.

The existing 3.6-mile channel is authorized at 200 feet wide and 30 feet deep, extending from the main shipping channel to the turning basin for the Cargill Fertilizer facility. It was first authorized in the 1890s, and last expanded in about 1950. The proposed channel dimensions are 250 feet wide and 43 feet deep.

The existing turning basin, located inside the mouth of the Alafia River, is 700 feet wide and 1,200 feet long. The northern side is hardened by bulkheads, forming mooring sites. Alternatives have been advanced for increasing turning area: enlargement of the current basin to provide a 1,200-foot turning radius of appropriate depth, or creation of a new turning basin in eastern Hillsborough Bay north of the mouth of the Alafia River.

## Council Comments/Concerns

The information provided in the scoping letter was too brief to determine the proposed extent of either alternative. However, based upon knowledge of the Alafia River and this area of Hillsborough Bay, a number of potentially-adverse environmental impacts are apparent, and warrant thorough investigation.

The Council's Agency on Bay Management received a briefing from Mr. Tim Murphy, project director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at its Natural Resources/ Environmental Impact Review Committee meeting on February 12th. It was stated that the proposed Hillsborough Bay location of a new turning basin is inconsistent with the *Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region*, the wetland rules of the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Tampa Bay. The construction of a new turning basin appears to be inconsistent with policies 4.1.6, 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.14, 4.7.1, and 4.7.6. The following questions/concerns were identified:

Local Comments Requested From:

Agency	Request Date
Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County	2/6/98
Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission	2/6/98
Hillsborough County Planning & Growth Management	2/6/98

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Committee's comments constitute compliance with Florida's Intergovernmental Coordination and Review process only.

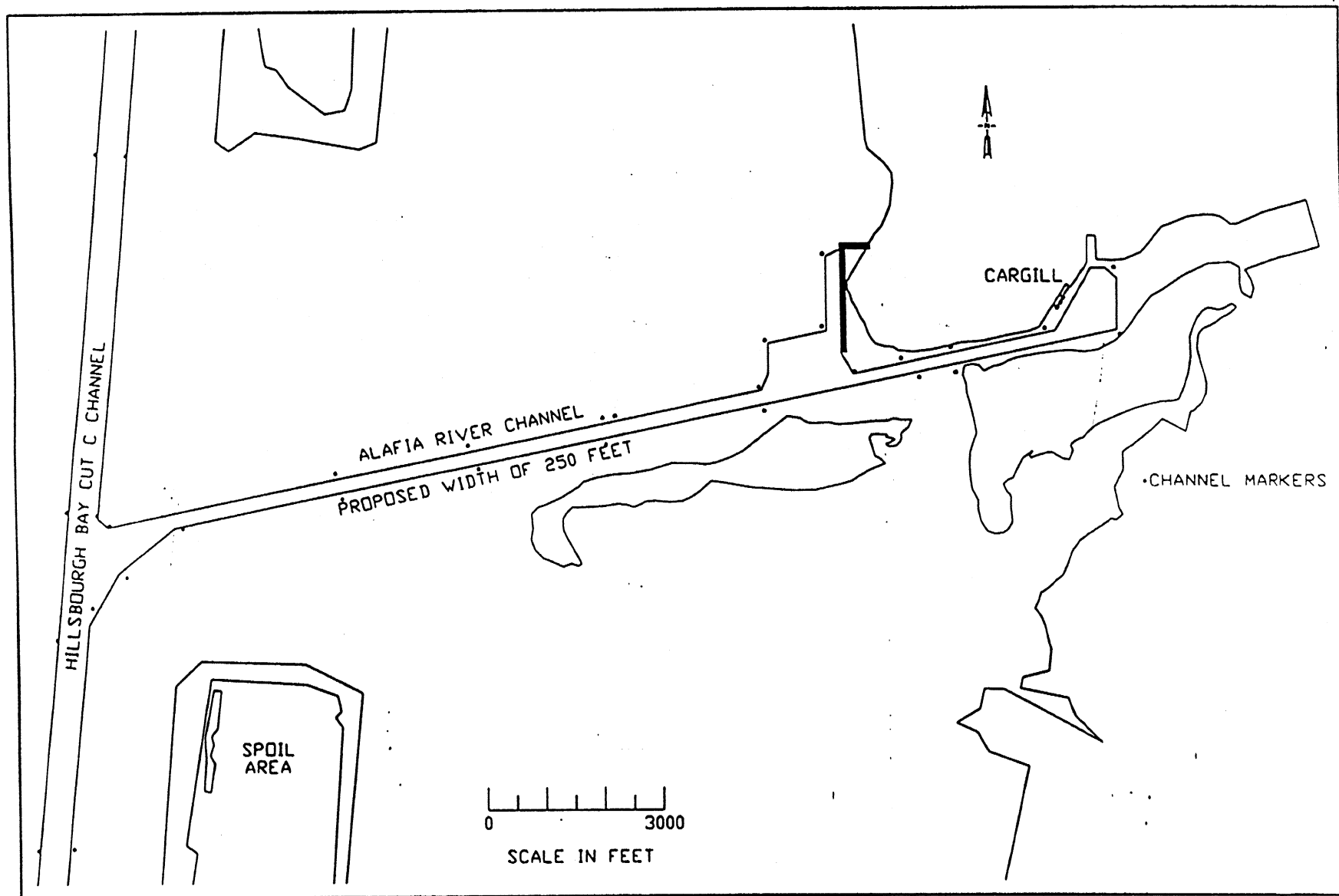


Figure 4. Plan 2 channel and turning basin configuration



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Tampa Bay Pilots

February 23, 1998

John R. Hall, Acting Chief  
Planning Division  
Attention: Environmental Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Chief Hall:

**Re: Study of the Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigation Channel**

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As presented to the Agency on Bay Management's Natural Resources/ Environmental Impact Review Committee, the study will evaluate various alternatives to providing sufficient turning basin and dockage to accommodate Panamax-sized vessels at the Cargill Fertilizer, Inc. facility and determine the federal interest in the project. This single-user site is located inside the mouth of the Alafia River in northeastern Tampa Bay.

The existing facility includes a 32'-deep, 150'-wide, 3.6-mile long channel from the main Tampa Bay shipping channel to the 700' x 1,200' turning basin. The stated need is for a 1,200' x 1,200' turning basin, a 250'-wide channel and 43' depths to permit Cargill to use Panamax ships, now considered standard for the industry and more economically-competitive. The two alternatives presented to the committee were:

1. Expansion of the existing turning basin. This would entail deepening by 11' and widening by 500' and generation of about 1,000,000 cubic yards of dredged material. The amount of alteration needed to existing facilities was not provided.
2. Dredging/construction of a new turning basin outside and north of the mouth of the Alafia River. This new basin would be more than 25 acres in size and 43' deep, in an area now about 3' deep. Some 4,000,000 cubic yards of dredged material would require disposal. New dockage and transloading facilities would be needed, but the size and location was not provided.

At the Committee meeting many concerns were raised relating to the identification of environmental impacts associated with each alternative. These concerns should be addressed as part of the Corps' study.

The Agency on Bay Management offers its assistance in the evaluation of the two alternatives for improved vessel access to the Cargill Fertilizer facility. Any questions or request for background information which the Agency might have on the Alafia River or Tampa Bay should be directed to Ms. Suzanne Cooper, 9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702 (813) 577-5151, Ext. 240. Please ensure that a copy of the study, including responses to the comments and questions in this letter is provided to the Agency on Bay Management, care of Ms. Cooper.

Thank you for addressing these comments and questions within the study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara B. Romano".

Barbara B. Romano  
Chair

cc: Mr. Gray Gordon  
Mr. Tim Murphy  
Mr. George Henderson



## FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



QUINTON L. HEDGEPEETH, DDS   MRS. GILBERT W. HUMPHREY   THOMAS B. KIBLER   JAMES L. "JAMIE" ADAMS JR.   JULIE K. MORRIS  
Miami   Miccosukee   Lakeland   Bushnell   Sarasota

ALLAN L. EGBERT, Ph.D., Executive Director  
VICTOR J. HELLER, Assistant Executive Director

April 9, 1998

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
BRADLEY J. HARTMAN, Director  
FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600  
(850) 488-6661  
SUNCOM 278-6661  
FAX (850) 922-5679  
TDD (850) 488-9542

Ms. Cherie Trainor, Director  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Re:   SAI #FL9802020037C, U.S. Army  
Corps of Engineers, Hillsborough  
County, Alafia River Navigation  
Channel

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has reviewed the referenced project, and offers the following comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating various alternatives for providing a turning basin and dockage to accommodate Panamax-sized vessels at the Cargill Fertilizer, Inc. facility, a single-user site located inside the mouth of the Alafia River on eastern Tampa Bay. The existing facility includes a 32-foot-deep, 150-foot-wide, 3.6-mile-long channel from the main Tampa Bay shipping channel to the 700-foot by 1,200-foot-wide turning basin. The anticipated need is for a 1,200-foot by 1,200-foot turning basin, a 250-foot-wide channel, and 43 feet of depth to allow use of Panamax ships.

Two alternatives are being considered for the turning basin: 1) expansion of the existing basin by deepening the basin by 11 feet and widening it by 500 feet, and 2) dredging a new 25-acre turning basin outside and north of the mouth of the Alafia River to a depth of 43 feet. The expansion would generate one million cubic yards of spoil. A new basin would generate 4 million cubic yards of spoil, and require new dockage and transloading facilities.

We have the following concerns with regard to the referenced project: 1) impacts to adjacent bird rookeries; 2) impacts to bay bottoms, including seagrass beds; 3) impacts related to spoil disposal, including islands 2D and 3D; 4) potential beneficial uses of generated spoil material; 5) and conflicts with the restoration of Tampa Bay.

Ms. Cherie Trainor  
April 9, 1998  
Page 2

The Alafia Channel is adjacent to the Alafia Banks, a significant nesting habitat for 22 species of birds, including nine species listed as state species of special concern (SSC) and two listed as threatened (T). The Alafia Banks is one of the most important breeding areas in the nation, and is ranked by the Florida Audubon Society as Florida's number one colony. Erosion of the Alafia Banks is an on-going problem. The potential exists that ship traffic utilizing an expanded turning basin and channel may exacerbate erosion on the Alafia Banks, and negatively impact foraging and nesting habitat for the colony via noise, lighting at night, spills, and spill containment. Relocated dock and handling operations also have the potential to negatively impact bird nesting, since the new basin would be immediately across the channel from the Alafia Banks.

Spoil islands 2D and 3D are nationally significant colonial nesting bird rookeries that support least terns (T), black skimmers (SSC), American oystercatchers (SSC), 20,000 to 40,000 pairs of laughing gulls, royal terns, sandwich terns, and the only Florida colony of the Caspian tern. The provision to allow open-water spoiling to create islands 2D and 3D was predicated upon their use as facilities to maintain the existing navigation channels in Tampa Bay. The addition of spoil material from new excavations could substantially reduce the build-out lifetime for these islands. This could create the need for additional open water spoiling and concurrent impacts associated with spoil activities.

The new turning basin alternative would result in the elimination of approximately 25 acres of shallow (3-foot average) bay bottom, including an unknown amount of mixed seagrasses. Broadcast turbidity from basin construction may impact wide areas of shallow bottom, including seagrass beds beyond the footprint of the proposed new basin. Seagrass beds are also present in the areas surrounding the existing channel. The endangered Florida (West Indian) manatee utilizes the proposed turning basin area for foraging and the existing turning basin area for temperature refuge.

We believe that the alternative involving construction of a new turning basin is inconsistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act, in that it has a high potential to unacceptably impact breeding birds and listed species habitat.

Based on the information provided, expansion of the existing turning basin should have significantly less environmental impact. Suitable spoil could be used beneficially in pursuit of existing restoration projects in the Tampa Bay area. In order of preference, we recommend suitable spoil use at the Alafia Banks to offset existing erosion, at the Cockroach Bay Restoration Site to fill old shell pits and build xeric habitat, and at the Palm River to fill deep dredge holes. Any proposed spoil deposition on existing spoil islands 2D and 3D should occur only between the months of September to March, outside of breeding bird season. The potential to beneficially use spoil from the proposed projects does not constitute off-set or mitigation of negative project


Ms. Cherie Trainor  
April 9, 1998  
Page 3

impacts, however it does prevent misuse or misplacement of spoil that results in additional environmental impact. No loss of existing seagrass beds should be permitted.

A careful examination is needed of the conflict between deepening and widening channels, thus impacting water quality and habitat in Tampa Bay, and the expenditure of state and federal funds to protect, enhance, and restore habitat. This examination should be consistent with the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program Coordinated Conservation and Management Plan, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District Surface Water Improvement Management Plan.

Please call me at (850) 488-6661 or Mr. Jim Beever at (941) 575-5765 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Bradley J. Hartman, Director  
Office of Environmental Services

BJH/JWB  
ENV 1-3-2

alafiar.sai

cc: Mr. John R. Hall, Acting Chief  
Planning Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Ms. Deborah Manz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
c/o U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 19247  
Tampa, Florida 33686-9247

Ms. Suzanne Cooper  
Agency on Bay Management  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2491



Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Gathering of  
Information about Issues, Concerns, Resources and  
Opportunities Associated with the Ongoing Study of the  
Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigation Channel -  
Hillsborough County, Florida.

***SAI# FL9802020037C***

The above-described project was received by the Clearinghouse on 2/2/98,  
and has been forwarded to the appropriate reviewing agencies. The clearance letter and  
agency comments will be forwarded to you no later than 3/19/98,  
unless you are otherwise notified. Please refer to the above State Application Identifier  
(SAI) number in all written correspondence with the Clearinghouse regarding this project.  
If you have any questions, please contact the Clearinghouse at (904) 922-5438.

5/9/97 Meeting at Cargill.

Disposal options are: 3D, 2D, Cargill sites A, B, C, Site West of Gypsum Field, Expansion of Bird Island (requested by Audubon Society), and East side of 2D & 3D (See plan 5 and colored aerials)

Notes from trip: Attendees met first in Cargill's Conference room. Aerials were requested of sites. Economists were alerted for Ian's request of data. Purpose of this meeting was to consider ALL disposal options before sending out an environmental scoping letter to FWS. Sponsor was told that FY97 goals were to complete Environmental scoping, ship simulator study, and economics. Met people working on project economists etc. Corps representatives visited Gypsum field's high point to view disposal areas. Jim Davis, Cargill's Congressman is sensitive to International trade issues and is very supportive.

Site A: Has 500K CY capacity, Dike elevations at 20 ft. existed last year

Site B: Has 300-400K CY capacity

Site C: Has 600K CY capacity

Site West of Gypsum field - Where warehouses are located. We saw possibly seagrasses (deep bluish color), gypsum and springs in the area. Sponsor said that land adjacent to warehouses was virgin. In 1930's the entire shelf was called "Gypsum Shoals". Gypsum is calcium sulfate,  $\text{CaSO}_4$ , pretty acidic. Over the years to satisfy environmental mitigation concerns, draglines have pulled gypsum back, packed it, and planted grass and palm trees on the land. There still appears to be a problem with the gypsum and spring in the area so it may be an environmentally favored proposal to build it up even some more. It has about 100 AC on top of its 210' elevation. Mayor Delaney would like to put a ski resort and restaurant on its top, thus this may be a viable alternative. It would be favored as an enhancement to the locals if the bottom elevation could be raised and bottom flats built up.

3D: TPA is sponsor and favors the project just as Big Bend. They just bought the southern half of Agrico, and another entity bought the northern half. Cargill loads occasionally at TPA when they need 40' drafts. TPA owns 3D and has built dike on it. For the Big Bend project, the COE will raise the dikes at 100% Federal cost, and TPA will pay for erosion problems.

2D: 3D & 2D will probably not be favored due to their previous usage for Big Bend, leaving no capacity. Bird Island: For Big Bend, perhaps the lesser grade of material could be capped by good material. TPA plans to place high grade of material for the expansion of Bird Island.

H26: Upland site was eliminated since County plans to do some rerouting of an adjacent stream, and construct a ditch to rejoin the land for some other purpose.

#### PLAN

The favored plan is Plan 4, with the new turning basin, and pier to accommodate two ships. Extending the conveyor system for loading would be much more user friendly to pilots. Under existing conditions, pilots disfavor going through the "land cut" since people fish frequently just off the banks. The district favors plan 4 for its allowance to go North with no problems, it poses more opportunities for the future, and the channel can be used a part of the turning basin. Dredging the existing turning basin to 41' encompasses 2-3 Million CY of material. With the new turning basin, we anticipate 3-4 Million CY dredging from 2' to 41'.

#### DREDGING

Cargill is presently up to 32' with shoal material. Under their permit with TPA, Cargill plans to dredge the channel down to 34' and place it in the disposal area. They plan to pump the 250K - 400K CY to the disposal area's capacity. The disposal areas were originally built to provide settling areas, so we saw those weirs that presently do not work. Fonferek reminded us that dredging cannot be done during bird season.

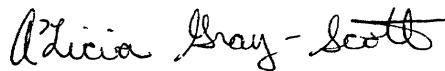
#### COST SHARING

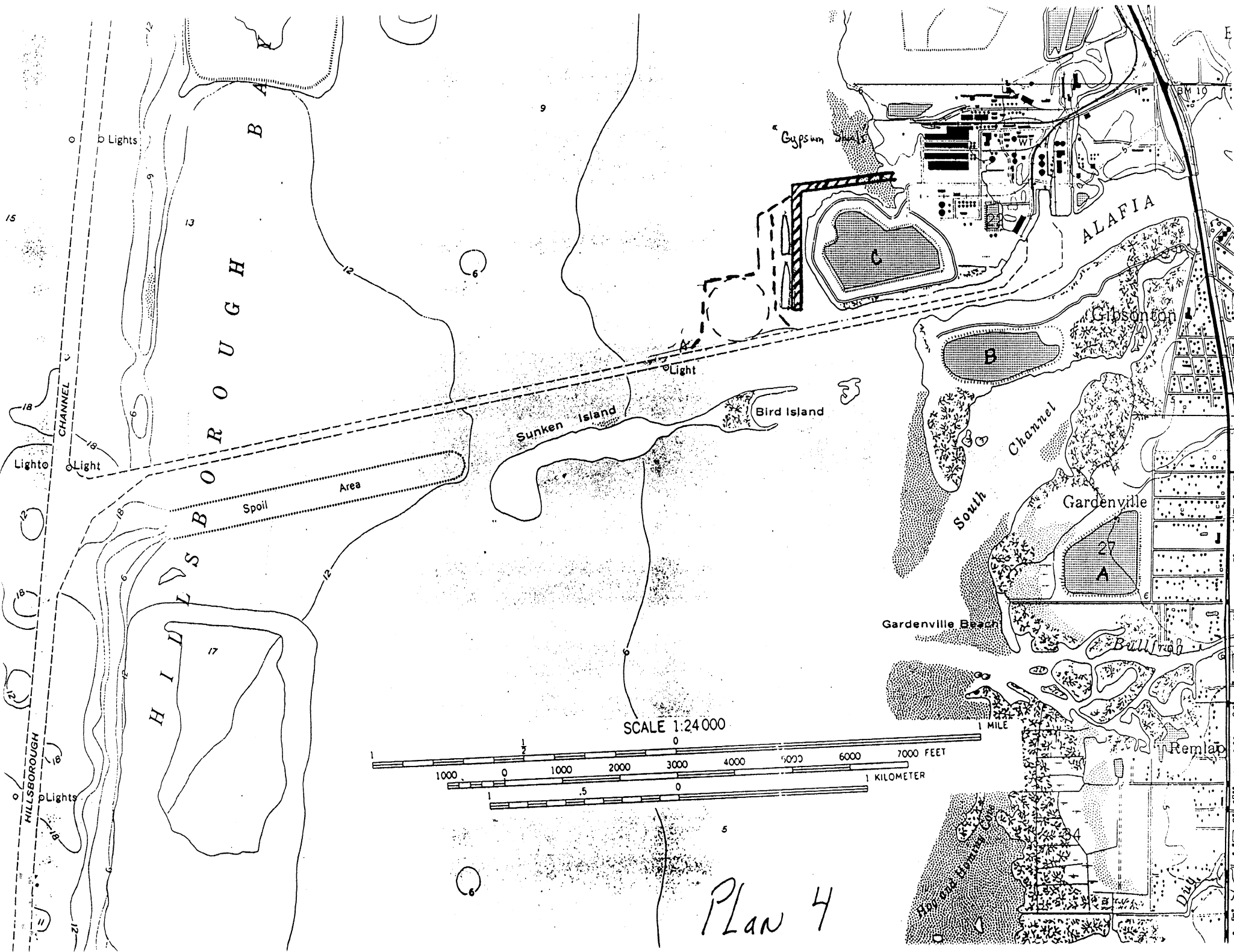
Cost sharing for disposal and maintenance has changed with WRDA 96. Channel deepening is still cost shared 65/35. If a site is prepared for construction, it is cost-shared just as a project cost, 65/35. For example, if the sponsor raises their dikes for construction purposes, it can now be cost shared 65/35,

instead of 100% local. If a site is prepared for as a disposal area for maintenance, it is a 100% federal cost. Now, even upland disposal is a 100% federal cost if prepared for maintenance. Previously, it was a 100% local cost only if material in an EPA designated ODMDS site. TPA's Fidler has requested to have the Tampa Harbor Maintenance PCA modified to include provisions of WRDA 96 as has Jacksonville Harbor and Canaveral. FY98 money (\$4-5 Million) has been budgeted for Tampa Harbor, but does not include Alafia River. Funds may only be available for Cut C. Perhaps in July, if funds are available, they can be used for Alafia.

FWS & BENEFICIAL USES OF DREDGED MATERIAL

Representatives from the National Estuary Program and ADM Planning council would like to visit the proposed sites. Fonferek will coordinate with ADM's Brenda on disposal alternatives. Beneficial uses of future maintenance dredged material can be costly. It is better to use the most economical option which would require the least mob/demobilization costs.

  
Technical Study Manager  
A'Licia Gray-Scott



Plan 4

CAR Meeting  
8/22/97

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bill FONFEREK	CORPS	904-232-2803
Deborah Manz	USFWS	813-840-2907
DAVID DALE	NMFS	813-570-5317
Ryan Richards	Cargill	813 671 6209
BRYAN PRIDGEMAN	USFWS	813-840-2908
Robert Musser	Tampa Bay Watch	813-896-5320
DAN SAVERCOOL	NATIONAL: TAMPA, HUDSON	813-875-1115
Peter Clark	Tampa Bay Watch	813-591-5910
Mike Weib	Cargill Fertilizer, Inc.	813-671-6154

# Army Corp / DEP Site Visit

8-16-97

Name	Org.	Ph #
Mike Wolz	USACE - JAX	904 232-1435
Sam Honeycutt	USACE-EN-GS	904-232-1970
Mark Wilke	COE	904-232-2530
JOHN BEARCE	USACE CO-OM	
DENNIS DUKE	CISACE	904-232-2238
BILL FONFEREX	CORPS	904-232-2803
Glen Schuster	Corps	904-232-3681
NAN JORDAN	FDEP	(813) 744-6100 xtn. 339
Mark Peterson	FDEP	813-744-6100 x323
Rose Poyner	"	" " x313
Norton Craig	FDEP	" " " 357
LUIS RENG PENEZ	COE	(904) 232-2436



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MAY 03 2000

Planning Division  
Environmental Branch

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are coordinating an Environmental Assessment for the Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigation Channel Expansion, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on the impacts of this proposal we have preliminarily determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The document can also be viewed at our Internet site at URL <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>.

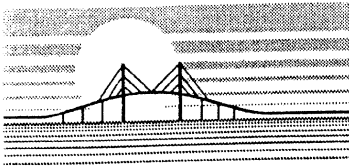
We are circulating this document for a 45-day period from the date of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Bill Fonferek at the above address reference this project. Mr. Fonferek can also be reached at 904-232-2803.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James C. Duck", is written over the typed name.

James C. Duck  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure



*Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
Agency on Bay Management*

9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2491  
(727) 570-5151/ FAX (727) 570-5118  
SunCom 513-5066

**An Alliance of Agencies,  
Organizations and  
Interest Groups for the  
Management of Tampa Bay**

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
Florida Senate  
Florida House of Representatives  
Tampa Bay Estuary Program  
FL Department of Environmental  
Protection  
FL Marine Research Institute  
FL Department of Transportation  
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation  
Commission  
Southwest FL Water Management  
District  
Environ. Protection Comm. of  
Hillsborough County  
Hillsborough County Planning  
Commission  
IFAS / Florida SeaGrant  
National Audubon Society  
ManaSota 88  
League of Women Voters'  
Environmental Coalition  
Sierra Club  
Tampa BayWatch  
Center for Marine Conservation  
Coastal Conservation Association of FL  
Egmont Key Alliance  
Tampa Bay Pilots  
Commercial Fishermen  
Recreational Interests  
Tampa Bay Partnership  
Contractors and Builders Association of  
Pinellas County  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Coast Guard -  
Marine Safety Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Geological Survey  
MacDill Air Force Base  
Post, Buckley  
Cargill Fertilizer, Inc.  
IMC-Agrico Fertilizer  
Florida Petroleum Council  
Florida Power Corporation  
Tampa Electric Company  
Florida Power & Light Company  
Manatee County Port Authority  
Port of St. Petersburg  
Tampa Port Authority  
Hillsborough County  
Manatee County  
Pasco County  
Pinellas County  
City of Clearwater  
City of St. Petersburg  
City of Tampa  
Eckerd College  
Hillsborough Community College  
USF Marine Science/  
Tampa Bay PORTS

June 14, 2000

Commissioner Chris Hart, Chairman  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Dear Chairman Hart:

RE: Tampa Harbor-Alafia River, Feasibility Report with Draft  
Environmental Assessment

At its meeting on June 8, 2000, the Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee of the Agency on Bay Management received a presentation on the above-referenced project from the US Army Corps of Engineers and discussed the plan at length. It voted unanimously to adopt these positions and recommendations and to forward them to the appropriate entities.

The proposed project includes enlarging and deepening the turning basin and navigational channel which serves the Cargill facility at the mouth of the Alafia River in central Hillsborough County. Wetland and shallow water habitat would be impacted and approximately 5.5 million cubic yards of dredged material would be generated.

It was recognized that a substantial effort has been made to design a project which would result in reduced environmental impacts. Concerns were raised regarding construction of a federal project to serve a single user, some of the proposed methods of spoil disposal, the amount of filling that has already occurred in Hillsborough Bay, and avoidable impacts to the shoreline of the Alafia River.

The Agency on Bay Management's Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee position on the proposed project is:

1. The US Army Corps of Engineers should keep its policy of not funding projects which benefit a single user;
2. Any Bay bottom involved in the project not already owned by the Tampa Port Authority should be deeded to the Authority;
3. There should be no filling in Hillsborough Bay to create new uplands from Bay bottom; and



4. The proposed footprint of the turning basin should be shifted to the north and east, so as not to impact the south shore of the Alafia River.

It is also recommended that any dredged material which is suitable for the purpose be used to help stabilize the shoreline of Egmont Key.

Thank you for considering these comments in the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's review of the project for the State Clearinghouse.

Sincerely,



George Henderson  
Co-Chair, Natural Resources/Environmental  
Impact Review Committee

cc: ✓ Mr. William Fonferek  
Mr. Gray Gordon  
Mr. Dave Parsche  
Ms. Barbara Romano



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUN 15 2000

District Engineer  
Corps of Engineers (Corps)  
Jacksonville District  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232

ATTN: Mr. James C. Duck, Chief  
Planning Division

Subject: Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Channel and Turning Basin Expansion of the  
Alafia Segment, Tampa Harbor, Hillsborough County, FL

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, EPA, Region 4 has reviewed the subject document, an examination of the consequences of upgrading the navigation capabilities along a 3.6 mile reach of the channel which services the Cargill Fertilizer (CF) facility. Specifically, the channel will be deepened from its current controlling depth of 32 to 42 feet. Additional overdraft for construction inaccuracies and the possible presence of limestone in the fairway could result in channel depths approaching 48 feet. The channel will also be widened to 250 feet and the turning basin reconfigured to a 1,200' diameter from its current dimensions. In total, these upgrades are proposed in an effort to accommodate more effectively fully loaded Panamax vessels transiting the CF facility, i.e., the need to light- or split-load will be obviated.

If the Corps approves upgraded service to a single end-user, approximately 5.5 million cubic yards of material will be excavated. Although the project site is 43 miles away, most of the material will have to be taken offshore for disposal in the Tampa ODMDS as existing upland sites lack sufficient capacity to handle this amount of material. The stipulations of Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act must be met when/if the ODMDS is used. We suggest that you have your staff contact Mr. Gary Collins (404-562-9395) to coordinate the specifics of this matter.

A relatively small portion of the dredged sediments is proposed for various beneficial uses to offset adverse effects of the turning basis enlargement. Further consultation with state/federal resource agencies will be necessary in this regard to determine whether the proposed uses are appropriate/feasible. For example, Bird Island enlargement has already been proposed as a means

of beneficial material disposal for several other projects in the Tampa Bay area. Even with the constant erosion it experiences, there is an immediate upper limit as to how much this feature can be enlarged without unacceptable consequences. Ironically, as larger ships transit the Alafia Channel, the wake/prop induced erosion the island experiences may also increase. There appears to be some discussion as to whether any seagrasses (or their historic habitat) will be impacted by this action. Given the fragility of these species to even minor dredging perturbations, it is important that ground truthing be accomplished prior to any construction to ascertain their presence.

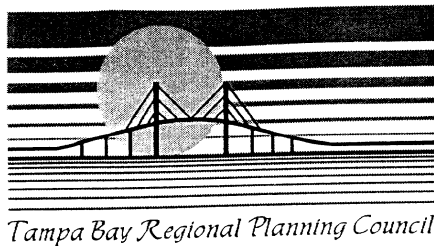
If the unavoidable, short- and long-term losses associated with this action are fully addressed to the satisfaction of state/federal resource agencies, we would have no objections to the use of an EA to assess the proposal rather than the more comprehensive environmental impact statement format.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this action. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, Dr. Gerald Miller (404-562-9626) will serve as initial point of contact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heinz Mueller", with a stylized, cursive script.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
Office of Environmental Assessment



# Agenda

## CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW COMMITTEE

9:30 a.m.  
June 26, 2000

The Committee, in accordance with its adopted rules of procedure, may take action only on matters on the printed agenda. It may exercise agency discretion and policy-making upon a finding by the Committee of an emergency situation affecting the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Committee meetings are public meetings within the context of Section 286.011, Florida Statutes (F.S.). Committee meetings are not public hearings within the context of Section 120.54, F.S. The Chairman has full discretion as to whether or not to recognize speakers other than Committee members or staff, and is not required to recognize individuals to speak on issues before the Committee. Public hearings on issues before the Committee are conducted by individual local governments and are the proper forum for public comment.

Please note that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Committee with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, that person must ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**\*\*\* THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \*\*\***

9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
Phone (727) 570-5151 Suncom 586-3217 FAX (727) 570-5118  
<http://www.tbrpc.org>

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council at (727) 570-5151, x 217 within three working days of the meeting.

## ROLL CALL

### Agenda Item #1

### MINUTES

#### A. Minutes of April 24, 2000.

Additional Material: Minutes of April 24, 2000.

Action Recommended: Motion to approve.

#### B. Minutes of May 22, 2000.

Additional Material: Minutes of May 22, 2000.

Action Recommended: Motion to approve.

### Agenda Item #2

### CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are either informational or non-controversial in nature and are recommended by staff for approval. Discussion of any individual item may be accomplished by any Committee member requesting that the item be removed from the Consent Agenda. Requests to remove items from the Consent Agenda must be made prior to the motion to pass the Consent Agenda. Items removed from the Consent Agenda will be discussed, in order of appearance, as Agenda Item #3, immediately following passage of the Consent Agenda.

#### A. DRI ANNUAL REPORTS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT ORDERS

NONE

#### B. DRI PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT LETTERS

NONE

#### C. DRI NOTICES OF PROPOSED CHANGE - CONSISTENT

The following projects have proposed changes to their respective Development Orders. Following evaluation of these changes for unmitigated potential regional impacts and consistency with statutory requirements, Council staff has concluded that these modifications would not represent a substantial deviation from the Development Order, as defined within Subsection 380.06(19), F.S.

1. DRI #65 - Tampa Palms, City of Tampa {Sustainable Community}
2. DRI #73 - Summerfield Crossings, Hillsborough County
3. DRI #104 - International Plaza, City of Tampa {Sustainable Communities}
4. DRI #110 - Rocky Point Harbor, City of Tampa

5. DRI #181 - Tri-County Business Park, Hills. County {Sustainable Communities}

Additional Material: Respective NOPC Reports.

D. DRI STATUS MATRIX

The following listing identifies the status of all “active” DRIs in the various levels of review process - INFORMATION ONLY

Additional Material: DRI Status Matrix.

- E. REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW (IC&R) REPORTS (other regionally significant to be discussed are outlined in Agenda Item #5).

IC&R #176-00, Pasco County MPO FY 2000/01 Thru 2004/05 Transportation Improvement Program, Pasco County.

Additional Material: Respective report for items above.

F. SUMMARY OF MONTHLY IC&R APPLICATIONS PROCESSED

A summary has been provided regarding the IC&R applications processed during the period of May 9, 2000 to June 12, 2000 with funding totaling \$150,633,587 for this period.

Additional Material: Monthly Report.

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Agenda Item #3**

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT  
AGENDA - DISCUSSION**

**Agenda Item #4**

**DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT**

A. PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCES

DRI #247 Long Lake Ranch, Pasco County

Geraci Family Associates, Ltd. is seeking Development of Regional Impact (DRI) approval for the construction of a multi-use development in southern Pasco County. The project is located along the southern side of State Road 54 between the Suncoast Parkway and U.S. 41/Dale Mabry Highway. The property abuts the eastern boundary of the St. Petersburg Wellfield. Upon buildout of the project's proposed 2015 buildout date, it is anticipated that the project will include: 1,116 single-family residential units, 825 multi-family residential units, 2,046,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, and 304,000 sq. ft. of office space. The

applicant has submitted the *Summary Narrative* for the project which provides greater detail of the proposal.

Additional Material: *Summary Narrative* (prepared by the applicant) and *Preapplication Conference Report* (prepared by Council staff).

Action Recommended: Conduct Pre-Application Conference.  
1. Presentation by TBRPC staff.  
2. Presentation by applicant.  
3. Comments by other reviewing agencies.

Motion to approve the Preapplication Conference Report containing the recommended regional issues to be addressed in the ADA.

B. PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

NONE

C. NOTICES OF PROPOSED CHANGE - INCONSISTENT

NONE

D. ANNUAL REPORTS INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT ORDERS

NONE

**Agenda Item #5**

**REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW REPORTS** (To be discussed individually - others may appear under the Consent Agenda)

A. IC&R #163-00, Environmental Assessment for Tampa Harbor-Alafia River Channel Expansion, Hillsborough County.

B. IC&R #194-00, Anna Marie Island Shore Protection Project, SAI #FL200005220292C, Manatee County

Additional Material: Staff reports.

Action Recommended: Motion to concur with staff reports.

**Agenda Item #6**

**CRC SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

A status report on Project Impact and emergency management activities will be presented.

**B. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION**

A status report on regional transportation activities will be presented.

**Agenda Item #7**

**UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S REGIONAL  
VISION STEERING COMMITTEE**

A report on the Big Picture project will be presented.

**Agenda Item #8**

**OTHER BUSINESS - CHAIRMAN**

**Agenda Item #9**

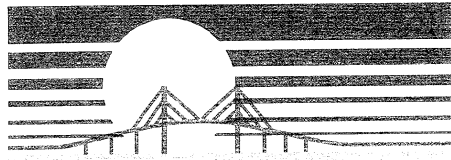
**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**

July 24, 2000, 9:30-11:00 a.m. — Council conference room

**Agenda Item #10**

**ADJOURN**





*Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*

Chairman  
Commissioner Chris Hart

Vice-Chairman  
Frederick T. Reeves

Secretary/Treasurer  
Mayor Pat Whitesel

Executive Director  
Manny L. Pumariega

June 16, 2000

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: IC&R #163-00, Environmental Assessment for Tampa Harbor -  
Alafia River Channel Expansion, SAI #FL199802020037CR,  
Hillsborough County

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The above-referenced item will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council's Clearinghouse Review Committee on June 26, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. in the Council conference room. A copy of this report and an agenda are enclosed should you or your representative wish to attend.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (727) 570-5151, ext. 257, regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Kristi Thum, Associate Planner  
Intergovernmental Coordination & Review

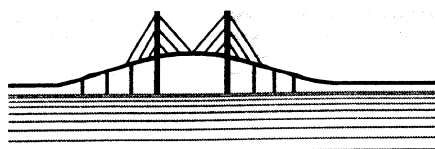
KT/bj

Enclosure

# IC&R

## Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
 Phone (727) 570-5151 Suncom 513-5066 FAX (727) 570-5118  
<http://www.tbrpc.org>



*Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*

### TAMPA HARBOR-ALAFIA RIVER FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, SAI #FL199802020037CR, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, IC&R #163-00.

The Florida State Clearinghouse has requested review and comment on the Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Assessment for the Tampa Harbor - Alafia River project. The proposed project includes enlarging and deepening the turning basin and navigational channel which serves the Cargill facility at the mouth of the Alafia River in central Hillsborough County.

As studied, the proposed project encompasses:

- enlarging the turning basin from 700 X 1200 feet to 1200 feet in diameter;
- deepening the turning basin from 32 feet to 42 feet;
- widening the 3.6-mile access channel from 200 feet to 250 feet; and
- deepening the access channel from 32 feet to 42 feet.

An estimated 5.5 million cubic yards of sandy and rocky material would be removed. Proposed disposal sites include marsh and upland creation adjacent to Disposal Site 2-D and adjacent to Bird Island, shoreline protection for Bird Island; placement in existing disposal sites within Hillsborough Bay and the uplands; and placement at the Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site.

The proposal would result in the loss of about 0.3 acres of mangroves and an unspecified amount of shallow water and shoreline habitat. Standard State and Federal manatee protection measures and federal Migratory Bird Protection Policy will be implemented during construction to eliminate impacts to manatees and nesting birds.

The project would allow Cargill Fertilizer, Inc. to bring in "PanaMax" vessels, the largest ships that can traverse the Panama Canal, to ship phosphate products to the Far East. Also, until the channel and turning basin are deepened, ships currently serving the facility cannot be loaded to full capacity at the dock. The improvements will result in more economical transport and help keep the company competitive with other manufacturers.

### Council Comments/Concerns

The project, including both the dredging and the planned dredged material disposal, will impact "Natural Resources of Regional Significance" in *Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region* (FRSRPP). Impacts could occur to designated wetlands, Priority Wetlands for Species (7+), and Rare/Endangered Species Occurrences. Pursuant to FRSRPP Policies 4.5.1, 4.5.2, and 4.5.6, it must be determined that the proposed impacts are of over-riding public interest. Mitigation ratios at a minimum of 4 created:1 impacted or 8 restored:1 impacted are recommended for impacts to such resources.

•	Beaches	2:1
•	Riverine habitats	3:1
•	Lake habitats	3:1
•	Special habitats	2:1

4.5.6: Mitigation by restoring disturbed habitat of a similar nature, including the removal of exotic plant species, may be acceptable. The minimum acceptable ratio shall be twice the habitat re-creation ratio set forth in policy 4.5.2.

4.5.14: Prohibit channelization through regionally-significant natural systems such as intertidal, estuarine, riverine and special habitats; solely to create new lands for development; or to create new navigation access.

4.6.5: Discourage projects which could alter natural tidal circulation. Necessary projects which would alter circulation shall minimize impact to tidal circulation and flushing and mitigate unavoidable impacts.

4.7.1: Prevent the dredging or filling of submerged lands not previously subject to dredging or filling, except in cases of overriding public interest that protect regionally-significant natural resources.

4.7.2: Uncontaminated dredged material shall be considered a resource to be utilized for appropriate beneficial uses such as recreation and wildlife habitat. Require revegetation plans for spoil areas utilizing appropriate native plant species.

4.7.4: Encourage the development and use of innovative and efficient dredged material disposal methods which reduce adverse environmental impacts and financial costs of dredged material disposal.

4.7.6: Regionally-significant natural resources shall be protected from adverse effects of dredge and fill activities.

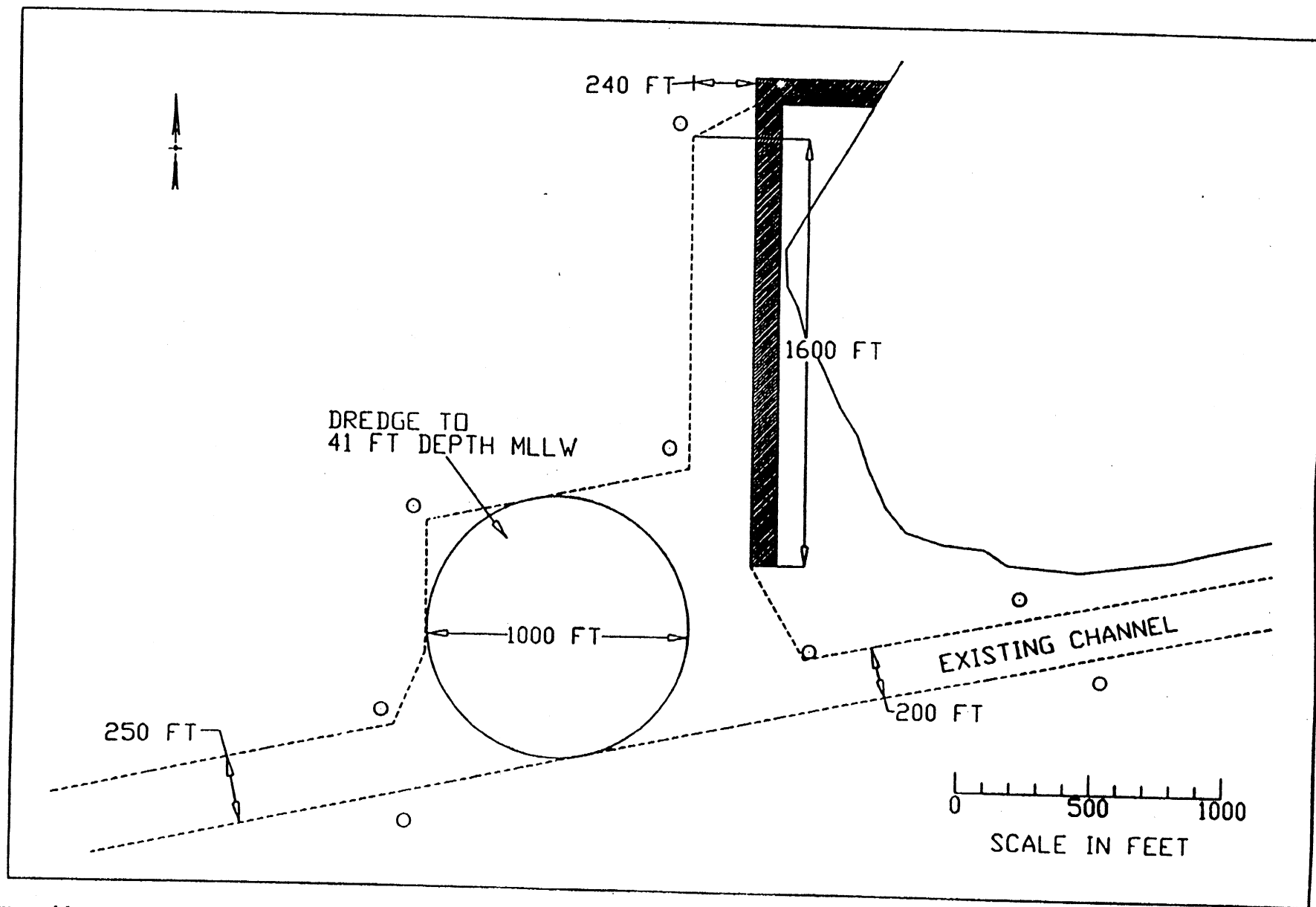


Figure 4A: Turning Basin Detail

4. The proposed footprint of the turning basin should be shifted to the north and east, so as not to impact the south shore of the Alafia River.

It is also recommended that any dredged material which is suitable for the purpose be used to help stabilize the shoreline of Egmont Key.

Thank you for considering these comments in the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's review of the project for the State Clearinghouse.

Sincerely,



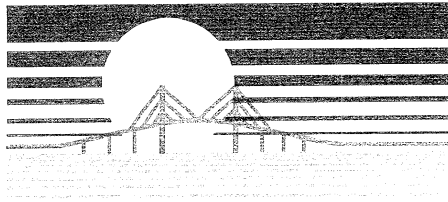
George Henderson  
Co-Chair, Natural Resources/Environmental  
Impact Review Committee

cc: Mr. William Fonferek  
Mr. Gray Gordon  
Mr. Dave Parsche  
Ms. Barbara Romano

Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft  
Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Assessment -  
Navigation Study for Tampa Harbor - Alafia River - May  
2000 - Hillsborough County, Florida. also on the internet at:  
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>

***SAI# FL199802020037CR***

The above-described project was received by the Clearinghouse on 5/12/2000,  
and has been forwarded to the appropriate reviewing agencies. The clearance letter and  
agency comments will be forwarded to you no later than 6/29/2000,  
unless you are otherwise notified. Please refer to the above State Application Identifier  
(SAI) number in all written correspondence with the Clearinghouse regarding this project.  
If you have any questions, please contact the Clearinghouse at (850) 922-5438.



*Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council*

Chairman  
Commissioner Chris Hart

Vice-Chairman  
Frederick T. Reeves

Secretary/Treasurer  
Mayor Pat Whitesel

Executive Director  
Manny L. Pumariega

June 30, 2000

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Subject: IC&R #163-00, Environmental Assessment for Tampa Harbor/Alafia River  
Channel Expansion, SAI #FL199802020037CR, Hillsborough County

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The above-referenced item will be discussed at the July 10, 2000 meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council which will be held at the Council offices at 10:00 a.m. This item was originally scheduled to be discussed at the June 26, 2000 meeting of the Clearinghouse Review Committee, but due to the lack of a quorum at that meeting, it is being placed on the agenda of the aforementioned Council meeting. An agenda and a copy of the report are enclosed for your information should you or your representative wish to attend.

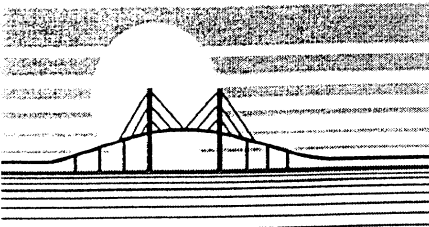
If you have any questions, please call me at (727) 570-5151, Ext. 244.

Sincerely,

Angela Hurley, Research Planner  
Intergovernmental Coordination & Review

AH/bj

Enclosures



# IC&R

## Intergovernmental Coordination and Review

9455 Koger Blvd., Suite 219, St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
Phone (727) 570-5151 Suncom 513-5066 FAX (727) 570-5118  
<http://www.tbrpc.org>

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

### TAMPA HARBOR-ALAFIA RIVER FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, SAI #FL199802020037CR, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, IC&R #163-00.

The Florida State Clearinghouse has requested review and comment on the Feasibility Study and Draft Environmental Assessment for the Tampa Harbor - Alafia River project. The proposed project includes enlarging and deepening the turning basin and navigational channel which serves the Cargill facility at the mouth of the Alafia River in central Hillsborough County.

As studied, the proposed project encompasses:

- enlarging the turning basin from 700 X 1200 feet to 1200 feet in diameter;
- deepening the turning basin from 32 feet to 42 feet;
- widening the 3.6-mile access channel from 200 feet to 250 feet; and
- deepening the access channel from 32 feet to 42 feet.

An estimated 5.5 million cubic yards of sandy and rocky material would be removed. Proposed disposal sites include marsh and upland creation adjacent to Disposal Site 2-D and adjacent to Bird Island, shoreline protection for Bird Island; placement in existing disposal sites within Hillsborough Bay and the uplands; and placement at the Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site.

The proposal would result in the loss of about 0.3 acres of mangroves and an unspecified amount of shallow water and shoreline habitat. Standard State and Federal manatee protection measures and federal Migratory Bird Protection Policy will be implemented during construction to eliminate impacts to manatees and nesting birds.

The project would allow Cargill Fertilizer, Inc. to bring in "PanaMax" vessels, the largest ships that can traverse the Panama Canal, to ship phosphate products to the Far East. Also, until the channel and turning basin are deepened, ships currently serving the facility cannot be loaded to full capacity at the dock. The improvements will result in more economical transport and help keep the company competitive with other manufacturers.

### Council Comments/Concerns

The project, including both the dredging and the planned dredged material disposal, will impact "Natural Resources of Regional Significance" in *Future of the Region: A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region* (FRSRPP). Impacts could occur to designated wetlands, Priority Wetlands for Species (7+), and Rare/Endangered Species Occurrences. Pursuant to FRSRPP Policies 4.5.1, 4.5.2, and 4.5.6, it must be determined that the proposed impacts are of over-riding public interest. Mitigation ratios at a minimum of 4 created:1 impacted or 8 restored:1 impacted are recommended for impacts to such resources.



•	Beaches	2:1
•	Riverine habitats	3:1
•	Lake habitats	3:1
•	Special habitats	2:1

4.5.6: Mitigation by restoring disturbed habitat of a similar nature, including the removal of exotic plant species, may be acceptable. The minimum acceptable ratio shall be twice the habitat re-creation ratio set forth in policy 4.5.2.

4.5.14: Prohibit channelization through regionally-significant natural systems such as intertidal, estuarine, riverine and special habitats; solely to create new lands for development; or to create new navigation access.

4.6.5: Discourage projects which could alter natural tidal circulation. Necessary projects which would alter circulation shall minimize impact to tidal circulation and flushing and mitigate unavoidable impacts.

4.7.1: Prevent the dredging or filling of submerged lands not previously subject to dredging or filling, except in cases of overriding public interest that protect regionally-significant natural resources.

4.7.2: Uncontaminated dredged material shall be considered a resource to be utilized for appropriate beneficial uses such as recreation and wildlife habitat. Require revegetation plans for spoil areas utilizing appropriate native plant species.

4.7.4: Encourage the development and use of innovative and efficient dredged material disposal methods which reduce adverse environmental impacts and financial costs of dredged material disposal.

4.7.6: Regionally-significant natural resources shall be protected from adverse effects of dredge and fill activities.

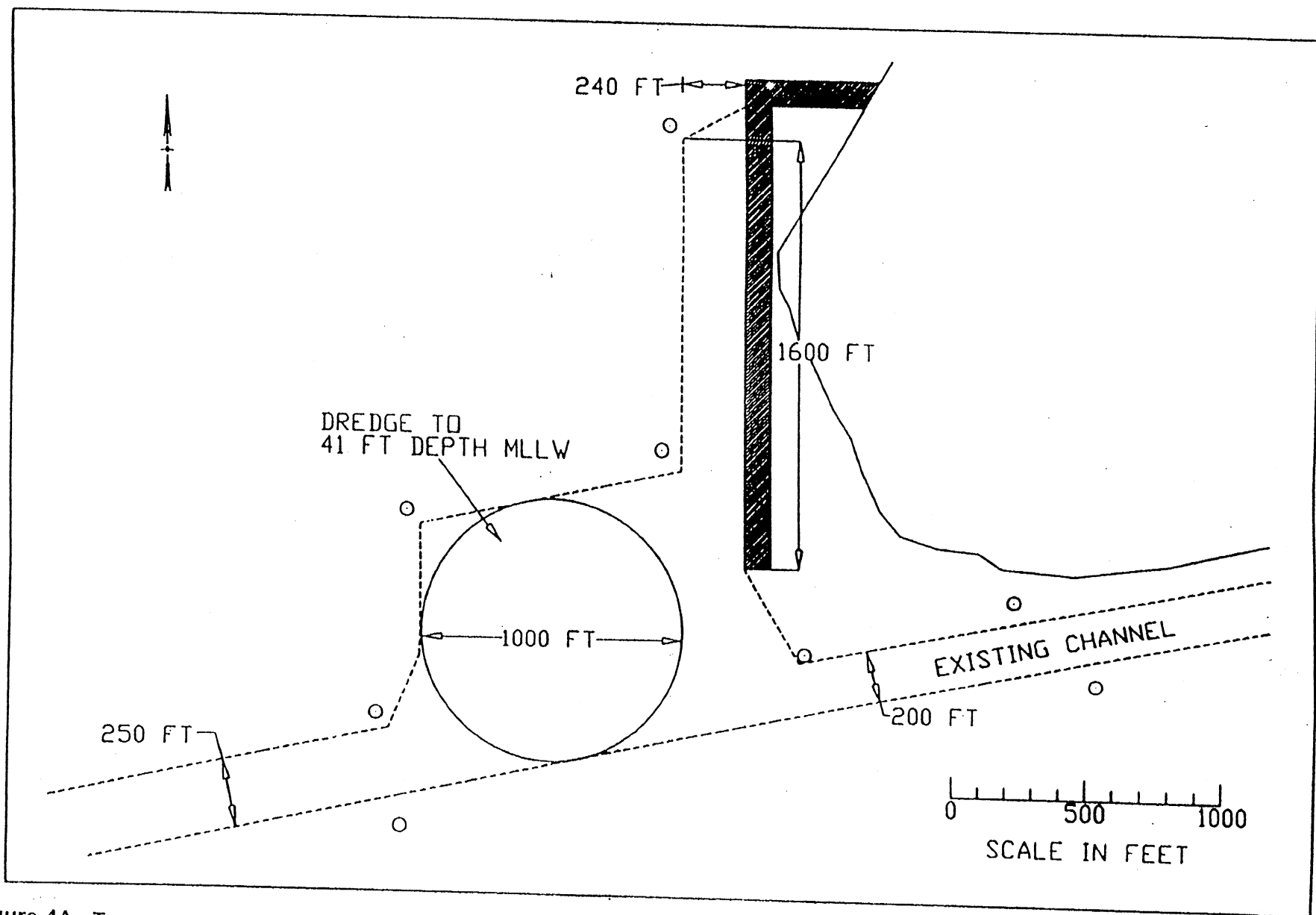
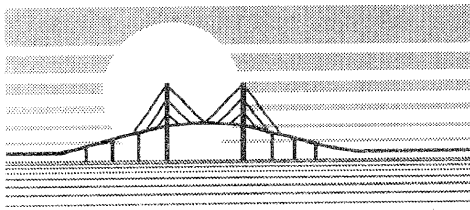


Figure 4A: Turning Basin Detail



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

# Agenda

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Blvd. - Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

10:00 a.m.  
July 10, 2000

*Note: To speak or to appeal a Council Action see last page.*  
**\*\*\* THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \*\*\***

- **Agenda Item #1**  
**Chairman Hart** CALL TO ORDER
  - Invocation and Pledge
  - Roll Call
  - Voting Conflict Report
  - Approval of Minutes**Recording Secretary**  
**Recording Secretary**  
**Secretary/Treasurer Whitesel**
- **Agenda Item #2** BUDGET COMMITTEE  
**Secretary/Treasurer Whitesel** A. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2000.  
B. PROPOSED FY 2001 BUDGET.
- **Agenda Item #3** CONSENT AGENDA  
**Chairman Hart**
- **Agenda Item #4** ITEM(S) REMOVED FROM  
**Chairman Hart** CONSENT AGENDA, ADDENDUM  
ITEM(S) OR ANY OTHER ITEM  
REQUIRING COUNCIL DISCUSSION
- **Agenda Item #5** REVIEW ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION  
**Suzanne Cooper** A. IC&R #163-00 - Environmental Assessment for Tampa  
Harbor/Alafia River Channel Expansion, SAI  
#FL199802020037CR, Hillsborough County.  
**John Meyer** B. Long Lake Ranch - Pre-Application Conference  
Report, DRI #247, Pasco County.
- **Agenda Item #6** A. Mr. Terry Johnson, Strategic Planning Administration  
**Chairman Hart** Southwest Florida Water Management District, will  
make a brief presentation on SWFWMD's process of  
updating the County Integrated Plans  
B. Representatives from the State Division of Forestry  
will make a presentation on creating fire safe  
communities.

- **Agenda Item #7**  
**Chairman Hart** COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS
- **Agenda Item #8**  
**Ms. Romano**  
**Ms. Bradley**  
**Mr. Frederick Reeves**  
**Mr. Bill Lofgren**  
**Betti Johnson**  
**Councilman King** PROGRAM REPORTS
  - A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM)
  - B. Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
  - C. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC)
  - D. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
  - E. Emergency Management
  - F. Legislative Committee
- **Agenda Item #9**  
**Chairman Hart** EXECUTIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT
- **Agenda Item #10**  
**Chairman Hart** OTHER COUNCIL REPORTS
  - A. National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) 2000 Conference
  - B. Regional Planners Advisory Committee (RPAC) None
  - C. Regional Visions Steering Committee "Big Picture" Report
- **Agenda Item #11**  
**Chairman Hart** CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- **Agenda Item #12**  
**Mr. Pumariega** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- **Agenda Item #13**  
**Chairman Hart** NEXT MEETING
  - A. August 14, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Boulevard, Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702
  - B. Events Calendar for July 10 to August 14, 2000 to be distributed at meeting.
- **Agenda Item #14**  
**Chairman Hart** ADJOURN

**The Regional Visions Steering Committee will meet immediately following  
this Council meeting.**

*The Council, in accordance with its adopted rules of procedure, may only take action on matters not on the printed agenda involving the exercise of agency discretion and policy-making upon a finding by the Council of an emergency situation affecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. Council meetings are Public Meetings within the context of Section 286.011, Florida Statutes. Council meetings are not Public Hearings within the context of Section 120.54, Florida Statutes. The Chairman has full discretion as to whether or not to recognize speakers other than Council members or staff, and is not required to recognize individuals to speak on issues before the Council. Public Hearings on issues before the Council are conducted by individual local governments, and are the proper forum for public comment.*

*Please note that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at the above cited meeting or hearing, s/he will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, s/he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons wishing to speak at a Council meeting are required to complete the form provided at the entrance to the meeting room. The form, after being completed, must be given to the Recording Secretary.*

*If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this meeting you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council at 727-570-5151 within 3 working days of the meeting.*

Ronald A. Govin  
*Chairman*

June 12, 2000

Jacqueline R. Wilson  
*Vice-Chairman*

Christine Malzone  
*Member-at-Large*

James N. Beeler, Jr.  
Dottie Berger

Terri G. Cobb

Bruce P. Cury

Barbara H. Dowling

J.E. (Dooley) Houghtaling

Vivian M. Kitchen

Ms. Kristi Thum  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Blvd. Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2491

RE: Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Assessment -  
Navigational Study for Tampa Harbor - Alafia River -  
SAI# FL199802020037CR

Robert B. Hunter, AICP  
*Executive Director*

Dear Ms. Thum:

The Planning Commission has completed its review of the Florida State Clearinghouse Local Government Coordination Routing Slip for the Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Assessment of the Navigational Study for Tampa Harbor on the Alafia River (SAI# FL199802020037CR).

The Planning Commission would like to express the following concerns regarding the proposed project:

1. Based on the information provided, the benefits of this project would primarily accrue to a single user. Only one private corporation has facilities which could be expected to benefit from this project. As such, Federal funding of this project would be inconsistent with the "single owner policy."
2. Additional clarification is recommended regarding the Cost/benefit analysis. It appears to suggest that benefits would accrue as a result of the project in terms of the transport of phosphate products, sulfur and ammonia. However, our information suggests that sulfur and ammonia are commonly transported in vessels smaller than the Panamax class, for which this project is designed to serve. Moreover, we know of no plans to bring ammonia into this area and only limited amounts of sulfur could be expected due to the development of an alternative sulfur facility located at another site.
3. Opportunities for moving the turning basin to the north should be further investigated in order to avoid impacts to mangrove wetlands and shallow bottom communities.

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P.O. Box 1110  
Tampa, Florida 33601-1110  
813/272-5940  
FAX 813/272-6258  
FAX 813/272-6255  
Internet E-Mail:  
planner@plancom.org  
Home Page:  
<http://www.plancom.org>

A Consolidated City-County Agency serving the cities of Tampa, Plant City, Temple Terrace and the County of Hillsborough  
An Affirmative Action-Equal Opportunity Employer

4. Documentation suggests that the sediments in the project area contain elevated levels of cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, zinc, and PCB's. We would recommend a more thorough analysis as to the risk of exposing these contaminants to the water column and the risks of the proposed beneficial use of this dredge material.
5. Water quality in the project area has been documented as poor, especially in regard to dissolved oxygen levels. Additional analysis is recommended to determine the proposed project's potential long term impact on water quality, especially in regard to dissolved oxygen levels, water circulation and flushing.
6. Rip-rap and revetments are proposed to stabilize the newly created mangrove fringe shoreline along the southern shore of the turning basin. Additional information and analysis is recommended to evaluate the design and engineering of this new shoreline in terms of its hydro-Biologic benefit and value relative to natural, unhardened mangrove fringe shoreline.
7. The Project will result in the loss of 34 acres of shallow water, benthic habitat. Proposed beneficial use projects are suggested to have the potential to mitigate for this loss. However, hydro-dynamic modeling indicates that proposed beneficial use project sites experience heavy erosion. Furthermore, the location of the proposed beneficial use projects exhibit current environmental benefits which could be impacted by the deposition of dredge material. We recommend that a careful analysis be conducted of the proposed beneficial use sites, including the potential for erosion of contaminant laden dredge material and loss of existing productive habitat.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. Should you have any questions please contact us at (813) 272-5940.

Sincerely,



Shawn C. College, AICP  
Senior Planner

CC: Al Eisenmenger, Executive Planner  
James Duck, ACOE

**FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION  
ROUTING SHEET**

SAI #: FL199802020037CR

DATE: 05/15/2000

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC: 06/21/2000

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: Hillsborough

☐ FEDERAL ASSISTANCE    ☒ DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY    ☐ FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT    ☐ OCS

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Assessment - Navigation Study for Tampa Harbor - Alafia River - May 2000 - Hillsborough County, Florida. also on the internet at:  
<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>

**ROUTING:**

**RPC**

       Tampa Bay RPC

**Local Governments**

**X** Hillsborough County

*- See attached Comments*

**IF YOU HAVE NO COMMENTS, PLEASE CHECK HERE AND RETURN FORM TO RPC :** \_\_\_\_\_

ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SHOWN BELOW. PLEASE REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Kristi Thum  
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
9455 Koger Boulevard  
Suite 219  
St. Petersburg, FL 337022491

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT SEND COMMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE!**

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT OR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FEDERAL CONSISTENCY REVIEW PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT THE FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR BOTH PROGRAMS IS (850) 922-5438 OR SUNCOM 292-5438.



STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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JEB BUSH  
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT  
Secretary

July 14, 2000

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Feasibility Report  
and Draft Environmental Assessment - Navigation Study for Tampa Harbor -  
Alafia River - May 2000 - Hillsborough County, Florida  
SAI: FL199802020037CR

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has been advised that our reviewing agencies require additional time to complete the review of the above-referenced project. In order to allow time for the July 26, 2000 meeting addressing potential concerns regarding this project, and to allow time to receive comments from all agencies subsequent to that meeting, additional time has been agreed upon for completion of the state's consistency review. We will make every effort to conclude the review and forward the consistency determination to you on or before August 4, 2000.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 414-5495.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cantral, Executive Director  
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

**2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100**

Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781

Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

CRITICAL STATE CONCERN FIELD OFFICE  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(850) 488-7956



MAY 6 2000

Planning Division  
Environmental Branch

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are coordinating an Environmental Assessment for the Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigation Channel Expansion, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, to obtain concurrence from the State of Florida in our Coastal Zone Management Plan Consistency Determination. We are evaluating the impacts of the project. Based on the impacts of this proposal we have preliminarily determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The document can also be viewed at our Internet site at URL <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>.

We are circulating this document for a 45-day period from the date of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Bill Fonferek at the above address reference this project. Mr. Fonferek can also be reached at 904-232-2803.

Sincerely,

James C. Duck  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

*L*  
Fonferek/CESAJ/PD-ER/2803  
*KPA* Egger/CESAJ/PD-ER  
Smith/CESAJ/PD-E  
Strain/CESAJ/PD-P  
Murphy/CESAJ/DP-I  
*m* Duck/CESAJ/PD

*SW/2002/5/4*

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Planning Division  
Environmental Branch

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are coordinating an Environmental Assessment for the Tampa Harbor - Alafia River Navigation Channel Expansion, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on the impacts of this proposal we have preliminarily determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The document can also be viewed at our Internet site at URL <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pd/env-doc.htm>.

We are circulating this document for a 45-day period from the date of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Bill Fonferek at the above address reference this project. Mr. Fonferek can also be reached at 904-232-2803.

Sincerely,

James C. Duck  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

Fonferek/CESAJ/PD-ER/2803

Dugger/CESAJ/PD-ER

Smith/CESAJ/PD-E

Strain/CESAJ/PD-P

Murphy/CESAJ/DP-I

Duck/CESAJ/PD

L: group/pde/alafia/LTR.doc



STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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JEB BUSH  
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT  
Secretary

June 20, 2000

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Feasibility Report  
and Draft Environmental Assessment - Navigation Study for Tampa Harbor -  
Alafia River - May 2000 - Hillsborough County, Florida  
SAI: FL199802020037CR

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has been advised that our reviewing agencies require additional time to complete the review of the above-referenced project. In order to receive comments from all agencies, an additional fifteen days is requested for completion of the state's consistency review in accordance with 15 CFR 930.41(b). We will make every effort to conclude the review and forward the consistency determination to you on or before July 14, 2000.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 414-5495.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cantral, Executive Director  
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

**2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100**

Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781

Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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**JEB BUSH**  
Governor

**STEVEN M. SEIBERT**  
Secretary

August 9, 2000

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019


RE: Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Feasibility Report  
and Draft Environmental Assessment - Navigation Study for Tampa Harbor -  
Alafia River - May 2000 - Hillsborough County, Florida  
SAI: FL199802020037CR

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has been advised that our reviewing agencies require additional time to complete the review of the above-referenced project. In order to allow time for the Department of Environmental Protection to address potential concerns regarding this project, additional time has been agreed upon for completion of the state's consistency review. We will make every effort to conclude the review and forward the consistency determination to you on or before August 18, 2000.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 414-5495.

Sincerely,

  
for Ralph Cantral, Executive Director  
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

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JEB BUSH  
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT  
Secretary

September 11, 2000

Mr. Bill Fonferek  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Feasibility Report  
and Draft Environmental Assessment - Navigation Study for Tampa Harbor -  
Alafia River - May 2000 - Hillsborough County, Florida  
SAI: FL199802020037CR

Dear Mr. Fonferek:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) notes that the attached comments were provided directly to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Please refer to the enclosed FWC comments.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offers a number of comments noting questions and concerns regarding the preferred alternative and the information presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA). DEP notes that the EA should be revised or supplemented to address identified issues and information gaps by (a) expanding the description and acreage of resources that would be impacted by the project; (b) thoroughly documenting all appropriate means to avoid and minimize those impacts; and (c) including a comprehensive mitigation plan to fully compensate for unavoidable losses. DEP will determine the consistency of the project upon reviewing the supplemental information submitted. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

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Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781  
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